

# House File 125 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 125

BY PRICHARD

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the transportation of persons with a  
2 substance-related disorder or a mental illness.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.   NEW SECTION.   **125.56   Transportation services.**

2     1.   A county may contract with a private entity to  
3 appropriately transport any of the following persons:

4     a.   A person admitted to a facility pursuant to section  
5 125.33.

6     b.   A person taken into custody pursuant to section 125.81  
7 and court-ordered to a hospital or facility as described in  
8 section 125.81, subsection 2, paragraph "b" or "c".

9     2.   If the hospital or facility determines that a person  
10 is in need of commitment or treatment at another hospital or  
11 facility, such a private entity shall appropriately transport  
12 the person to another hospital or facility.

13    3.   A county's contract with such a private entity is  
14 independent of the county's or a mental health and disability  
15 services region's role as a provider of mental health services.

16    4.   In contracting with a private entity, a county shall  
17 include provisions to ensure all of the following:

18    a.   The provision of trained personnel and the use  
19 of appropriate vehicles for the safe transportation of  
20 respondents.

21    b.   That the person's insurance carriers and other programs,  
22 both public and private, that provide payment for such  
23 transportation services are fully utilized to the maximum  
24 extent possible.

25    5.   A county shall implement a request for proposals process  
26 to enter into a contract with a private entity for the purpose  
27 of transporting a person pursuant to this section.

28    6.   The mental health and disability services regions, the  
29 Iowa state association of counties, the Iowa state sheriffs'  
30 and deputies' association, and other law enforcement agencies  
31 in this state, shall collaborate to utilize best practices for  
32 the implementation and administration of this section.

33    Sec. 2.   NEW SECTION.   **229.46   Transportation services.**

34    1.   A mental health and disability services region, as  
35 defined in section 225C.2, may contract with a private entity



1 substance-related disorder or a mental illness.

2     The bill directs a county or a mental health and disability  
3 services region as defined in Code section 225C.2, as  
4 appropriate, to contract with private entities to appropriately  
5 transport a person who is admitted, on a voluntary basis,  
6 to a facility or hospital under Code section 125.33  
7 (substance-related disorders) or 229.2 (mental illness) or who  
8 is the subject of an immediate involuntary custody order to  
9 the nearest available facility licensed to care for persons  
10 with substance abuse or mental illness or a public or private  
11 hospital. If the facility or hospital determines that a person  
12 is in need of commitment treatment at another facility or  
13 hospital, the private entity is required to make arrangements  
14 to appropriately transport the person to another facility  
15 or hospital. A county's or a mental health and disability  
16 services region's contract with a private entity is independent  
17 of the county's or region's role as a provider of mental health  
18 services. In contracting with a private entity, a county or  
19 a mental health and disability services region is required to  
20 include provisions relating to appropriately trained personnel  
21 and the use of appropriate vehicles for the safe transportation  
22 of respondents, and fully utilizing the respondents' insurance  
23 carriers and other programs, both public and private, that  
24 provide payment for such transportation services, to the  
25 maximum extent possible.

26     A county or a mental health and disability services region  
27 is required to implement a request for proposals process to  
28 enter into a contract with a private entity for the purpose of  
29 transporting a person pursuant to the bill. The mental health  
30 and disability services regions, the Iowa state association of  
31 counties, the Iowa state sheriffs' and deputies' association,  
32 and other affected stakeholders shall collaborate to utilize  
33 best practices to administer the bill's provisions.